

# Saving water *at your home*

The Carlsbad Municipal Water district offers free home water surveys to its customers to help improve water conservation. This thorough indoor and outdoor audit examines water-using devices and activities and provides water saving recommendations. You can take a short survey yourself by using the check list included here.

**To schedule  
a survey, call  
760-438-2722**

## Indoor check list

### Bathroom

- ☐ Replace an older toilet with a high efficiency model that uses 1.6 gallons or less per flush. Toilets older than 1994 use more than 3.5 gallons each flush. A date or flush volume is often found behind the seat or inside/on the tank lid.
- ☐ Check toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the upper tank. There is a leak if the color appears in the bowl after 15 minutes.
- ☐ Replace showerheads with ones that have an excellent water stream and use 2.5 gallons a minute or less.



*The toilet accounts for more than one quarter of the water used in a home, making it the biggest home water user.*

### Kitchen

- ☐ Run full loads of dishes.
- ☐ Turn the water off between cleaning and rinsing dishes by hand.

### Laundry

- ☐ Run full loads of laundry. An average top loading clothes washer uses 40 gallons each load.
- ☐ Install a high-efficiency clothes washer. Front loading washers use 40 percent less water than a top loader.

### More indoor tips

- ☐ Install aerators on sink faucets.
- ☐ Fix leaky faucets and plumbing.

## Outdoor check list

More than 50 percent of water is used outdoors. Simple fixes to landscape irrigation can add up to big water savings. Use the check list below to see how you are doing.

*continued*



# Saving water *at your home* (cont.)

## Sprinkler timer

- ☐ Adjust the sprinkler timer to abide by landscape watering rules and to suit plant types and the season.
- ☐ Use the watering calculator at [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com) to help create a custom schedule.
- ☐ To reduce water runoff and allow deeper water absorption, set the timer to run half the normal time and run a second cycle a half hour or hour later.
- ☐ Install a new battery every six months to prevent the timer from reverting to factory settings after a power outage.



*Most manufacturers have sprinkler timer instructions on their website.*

## Landscaping

- ☐ Apply a two-to-four-inch layer of mulch around plants to minimize water loss.
- ☐ Replace grass with drought tolerant plants or an artificial lawn. Visit [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com) for colorful plant ideas.

## More outdoor tips

- ☐ Open the water meter lid and look for movement on the small triangular dial when no water is being used. A turning dial means there is a leak and repairs are needed.
- ☐ Cover pools and spas to reduce water evaporation.

## Watering Schedule Rules

Mon Wed Sat	Tues Thurs Sun	Mon Wed Fri
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Odd-numbered home address



Even-numbered home address



Apartments, condos and businesses



*Irrigate landscapes between 6 p.m. and 10 a.m., no more than 10 minutes a station per assigned day.*

## Sprinklers

- ☐ Aim for head-to-head coverage. The spray of one sprinkler should reach the sprinkler closest to it.
- ☐ Change pop-up spray sprinkler heads with a new rotating sprinkler nozzle. Rotating nozzles use 20 percent less water, are more resistant to wind and are less likely to mist.
- ☐ Check sprinklers regularly for proper operation. Fix leaks, broken lines, damaged sprinklers, blocked heads and pavement watering.



*For each minute reduced from the irrigation cycle, 12 to 15 gallons are saved.*

## Thank you

for taking these steps to conserve water. Free videos are available to help evaluate your water use at home. Visit [www.carlsbadca.gov/water](http://www.carlsbadca.gov/water) or call **760-438-2722** for more information.